

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Propertyhistoric name Ellixson, William, House

other names/site number _____

2. Locationstreet & number State Road 1326☒ not for publicationcity, town Wilbourns☒ vicinitystate North Carolinacode NCcounty Granvillecode 077zip code 27565**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property

☒ private☐ public-local☐ public-State☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☐ building(s)☒ district☐ site☐ structure☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

41 5

Noncontributing

 buildings sites structures objects Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources of GranvilleCounty, North CarolinaNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☒ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwellingAgriculture/Subsistence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

GeorgianOther: transitional Georgian/Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls weatherboard

roof metalother woodstone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

Cultivated fields ringed by woods enframe the William Ellixson House and its surviving bright leaf tobacco era outbuildings. The one-story-and-loft, traditional hall-parlor plan dwelling is probably the oldest surviving home of a small planter in the county. Very modestly scaled and in deteriorated condition, Ellixson's rectangular house nonetheless retains a surprising number of fine Georgian and transitional Georgian/Federal style decorative elements dating from the early period of the county's plantation era of architecture. Far fewer modest dwellings survive in the county than large ones and they invariably display fewer decorative elements than their larger counterparts. They are also in less well-kept condition. Because of their rarity, any of them, such as this one, which retain sufficient stylistic and structural features to identify them as being from the plantation era should be eligible for the National Register.

Large cut stones form the dwelling's high foundation and the locally rare, double-shouldered chimneys that flank its steeply pitched, gable end roof. Handsomely finished box cornices, underpinned with moldings almost quarter-round in profile and bracketed with patternboards, extend along its front and rear, three-bay facades. In spite of its deteriorated condition, the exterior retains much of its original beaded weatherboard siding. Its nine-over-nine windows have been covered with metal or removed and its front porch is a twentieth century addition, but its mortised and tenoned frame remains intact.

Though its two room, traditionally planned interior is tiny, it retains a number of features that indicates the care with which it was finished. Beads were scribed into the hand-planed, board walls of both rooms and the steep boxed stair that leads from the larger, west room to the loft. Unfinished, the loft retains common rafters pegged together at the ridge. Beads also adorn the exposed beams of the downstairs rooms. An original raised, six-panel door connects the rooms, set in a quarter-round molding; the same molding enframes the entry to the stairs.

Three outbuildings still stand to the west of the house ["A" on attached sketch map], dating from the property's status as a small, traditionally cultivated, bright leaf farm. They are a frame, board and batten, asphalt sided packhouse [B] and two log tobacco barns [C & D], all built early in the twentieth century.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1800-1820 to 1937

Significant Dates

1800-1820

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Ellixson House, one of the earliest surviving properties in Granville County, is probably the oldest representative of the dwelling of a modest plantation era planter. (See associated Historic Context 1 - The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1746-1865) Its rarity as a representative of a once large but now almost forgotten class of early nineteenth century local residents - a class that has left few artifacts compared to its wealthier contemporaries - is joined by other equally unusual features. It retains one of the county's earliest Georgian and transitional Georgian/Federal style finishes and one of its earliest traditional hall-parlor plans. (See associated Property Type 1 - Georgian and Federal Style Dwellings) Although it is in deteriorated condition, its uniqueness as a refined yet traditional, early home of a modest planter makes it one of the most significant plantation era structures in the county. As the center of an approximately 290 acre, traditionally tilled farm during the latter third of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth, it is representative, along with its tobacco outbuildings from the period, of a bright leaf era farm. (See associated Historic Context 2 - Bright Leaf Tobacco and Rural Granville County, 1866-1937 - and associated Property Type 6 - Outbuildings) The property has been in use as a traditional bright leaf tobacco farm within the past 50 years; its period of significance has been assigned a closing date of 1937, however, because it has not achieved exceptional importance within the past half century.

William Ellixson (will probated 1821), the house's first known owner, probably raised it between the opening of the nineteenth century and the drafting of his will in 1820. (Ellixson purchased numerous tracts of land along Aaron's Creek, near which the house stands, between 1786 and 1827 and it cannot be determined from their inexact descriptions upon which tract he built his dwelling.) The dwelling is thought to date from after 1800 because of its form, construction and, most notably, its Georgian and transitional Georgian/Federal style finish. It is thought to predate 1820 because of these same physical features and because of the content of Ellixson's will. The will shows his position as a modest planter in 1820, for it provides for the disposition of six slaves, household and kitchen furniture, and a variety of livestock - four cows and yearlings, eight sheep, one yoke of oxen and a cart, one "choice" horse with a saddle and bridle, and an unspecified number of other horses and hogs [Will Book 12, Page 156, probated 1831]. In 1848 the house, along with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

292 acres, was purchased from Ellixson's estate by David Adcock [Deed Book 15, Page 133]. The house remained in his family until 1897, at which date it was acquired with 283 acres by James Polk Stovall for his children, Willie H. and Mattie G. Stovall [Deed Book 51, Page 39]. Willie bought out his sister's share in 1903 [Deed Book 64, Page 202] and tilled the land as a traditional bright leaf tobacco farm into the 1950s; the farm and vacant house still remain in his family.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Granville County Deeds. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Granville County Wills. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 14 acres

UTM References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin A. Brown/Architectural Historian & Patricia Esperon/Historian

organization Granville County-Oxford Historic Survey date 8/17/87

street & number P.O. Box 1556(State Historic Pres. Office) telephone 919-693-1491

city or town Oxford state N.C. zip code 27565

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 1 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAUTM REFERENCES

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	700980	4039380
B	17	700840	4039380
C	17	700830	4039230
D	17	700870	4039160
E	17	700970	4039200
F	17	701010	4039140
G	17	701160	4039310

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A: 17 700980 4039380 on the USGS polygon, where the tree line turns west, continuing west in a straight line, along the edge of the woods, approximately 480 feet to point B: 17 700840 4039380 on the polygon, where the tree line turns southwest. Continuing southwest in a straight line, along the edge of the woods, approximately 420 feet to point C: 17 700830 4039230 on the polygon where the tree line turns southeast. Continuing southeast in a straight line, along the edge of the woods, approximately 300 feet to point D: 17 700870 4039160 on the polygon, where the tree line turns east. Continuing east in a straight line approximately 240 feet, along the edge of the woods to point E: 17 700970 4039200, where the tree line turns south. Continuing south in a straight line, along the edge of the woods, approximately 240 feet to point F: 17 701010 4039140 on the polygon, where the tree line meets the north side of State Road 1326. Continuing northwest approximately 600 feet, along the north side of State Road 1326, to point G: 17 701160 4039310 on the polygon, where the tree line meets the north side of State Road 1326. Continuing northeast in a straight line, along the edge of the woods, approximately 700 feet to the point of origin.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Approximately 14 acres of the property that include the dwelling, outbuildings, and fields that have been a historic part of the property, maintain historic integrity, and convey the property's historic setting are being nominated for the National Register. The remaining acreage on the property has been excluded because it is now woodland. In this case the land use has substantially changed so that it no longer contributes to the historic integrity, or historic significance of the property as a plantation era or bright leaf era farm.

The northern boundary of the nominated property from UTM points A to B includes the farm clearing to its south and excludes woodland to its north. The western boundary from UTM points B to C, C to D, D to E and E to F includes the outbuildings and fields to its east and excludes woodland to its west. The southern boundary from UTM points F to G includes the farm clearing to its north and excludes property not owned by the owner to its south. The eastern boundary from UTM points G to A includes the dwelling and outbuildings to its west and excludes woodland to its east.

WILLIAM ELLIXSON HOUSE

Granville County, NC

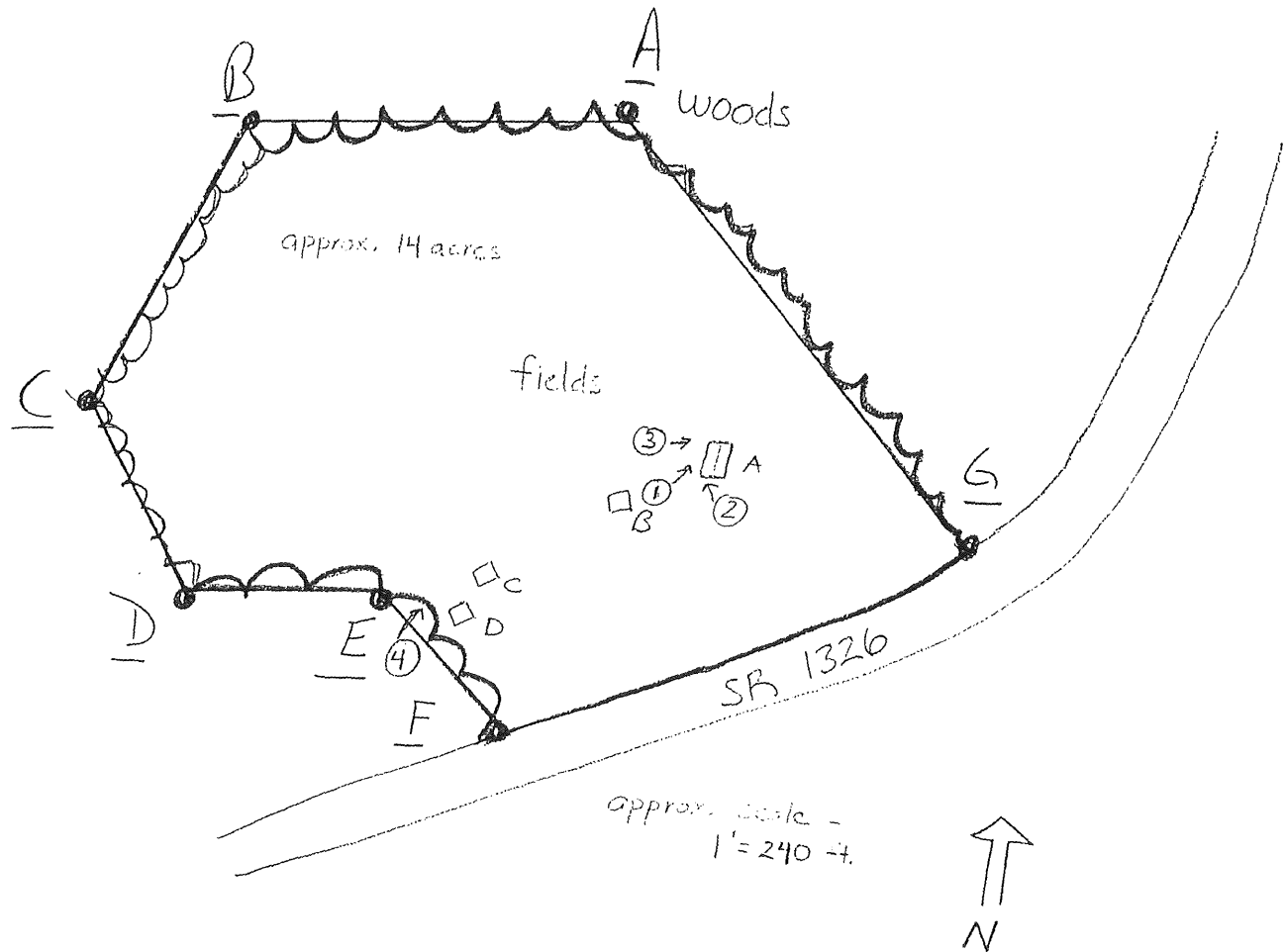
Contributing Buildings:

- A- William Ellixson House
- B- Early 20th century, frame packhouse
- C- Early 20th century, log tobacco barn
- D- Early 20th century, log tobacco barn

Contributing Site:

Cultivated fields

Underlined capital letters represent the UTM references for the vertices of the polygon drawn to encompass the property on the accompanying USGS map.



drawn by Marvin A Brown

